

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed October 8, 2004. Claims 1-4, 8, 11 and 13-15 are currently pending in the application, of which, claims 1, 8 and 15 are amended. Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 was objected to as including a minor informality. Claim 1 has been amended herein in a manner which is believed will overcome the objection.

Claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bettinger (U.S. Patent 3,811,237) in view of Greenblatt (U.S. Patent 6,427,400) and Penczak et al. (U.S. Patent 5,546,717). It is respectfully submitted that claim 1, as amended herein, is allowable over the Bettinger Patent in view of the Greenblatt Patent and the Penczak et al. Patent.

It is respectfully submitted that the Bettinger Patent fails to teach and/or suggest claim 1. Claim 1, presently recites an article support apparatus for use with a raised floor system including, *inter alia*, an article support member configured and adapted for suspension from adjacent stringer elements which are supported by support pedestals of the raised floor system, the article support member being configured to support articles thereon; and at least one mounting mechanism ***connectable with the article support member*** and adapted to mount the article support member to at least one stringer element of a raised floor system such that the article support member depends from the at least one stringer element.

It is respectfully submitted that the Bettinger Patent, taken alone or in any proper combination with the Greenblatt Patent and the Penczak et al. Patent fails to teach and/or suggest claim 1, as presently amended.

The Bettinger Patent discloses a raised floor panel and assembly including a plurality of support pedestals (18), stringer elements (24) extending between the support pedestals, and floor panels (20) disposed atop the stringer elements. The Bettinger Patent fails to disclose an article support member suspendable from the adjacent stringer elements which are supported by support pedestals of the raised floor system; and at least one mounting mechanism *connectable with the article support member* and adapted to mount the article support member to at least one stringer element of a raised floor system, as recited in claim 1.

The Penczak et al. Patent discloses an access floor trench raceway including, *inter alia*, a plurality of pedestals (32, 34); and a trench pan (12) including tabs (13, 15) which rest on or atop insulators (148) and upper ends (38) of the support pedestals (32, 34). The Penczak et al. Patent fails to disclose an article support member *suspendable* from the adjacent stringer elements which are supported by support pedestals of the raised floor system; and at least one mounting mechanism *connectable with the article support member* and adapted to mount the article support member to at least one stringer element of a raised floor system, as recited in claim 1.

The Greenblatt Patent discloses a cable support apparatus including, *inter alia*, wire baskets (50) having a pair of opposed sides, and inverted U-shaped hooks (54) fixedly connected to the pair of opposed sides. More particularly, each basket (50) is

modified by having appropriately attached *by welding* at corner locations (52) upstanding outwardly facing hooks (54) terminating in inverted U-shapes (56). (See Col. 2, lines 54-59, of the Greenblatt Patent). The Greenblatt Patent fails to disclose an article support member suspendable from the adjacent stringer elements which are supported by support pedestals of the raised floor system; and at least one mounting mechanism *connectable with the article support member* and adapted to mount the article support member to at least one stringer element of a raised floor system, as recited in claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted that hooks (54) of the Greenblatt Patent are integral with or integrally connect to the opposed side walls of basket (50). In contrast, the mounting mechanism of present claim 1 is *connectable* (i.e., may be removed) to the article support member. In other words, if desired and/or needed, the mounting mechanisms may be removed from the article support members. Additionally, if it is later determined that the mounting members are in fact needed, the mounting members may be re-attached to the article support members.

Accordingly, it is therefore respectfully submitted that, in view of the amendments to claim 1 and in view of the arguments presented above, that claim 1 is allowable over the Bettinger Patent in view of the Greenblatt Patent and the Penczak et al. Patent, taken in any proper combination. Since claim 2 depends directly from claim 1 and contains all of the features of claim 1, for the reasons presented above for the patentability of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claim 2 is also patentable over the Bettinger Patent in view of the Greenblatt Patent and the Penczak et al. Patent.

Claims 3-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Bettinger Patent in view of the Greenblatt Patent and the Penczak et al. Patent as applied to claim 2 above and further in view of Trautmann (U.S. Patent 2,983,389).

It is respectfully submitted that the Trautmann Patent fails to remedy the deficiencies of the Bettinger Patent, the Greenblatt Patent, and the Penczak et al Patent. The Trautmann Patent is directed to a work bench and not to an article support apparatus for use with a raised floor system according to claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that there is no motivation in the art to combine references related to raised floor systems with references related work benches and the like.

Since claims 3 and 4 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and contain all of the features of claim 1, and since the Trautmann Patent fails to remedy the deficiencies of the Bettinger Patent, the Greenblatt Patent, and the Penczak et al Patent, for the reasons presented above for the patentability of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3-4 are also patentable over the Bettinger Patent, the Greenblatt Patent, the Penczak et al. Patent, and the Trautmann Patent.

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Bettinger Patent in view of the Greenblatt Patent and the Penczak et al. Patent. It is respectfully submitted that claim 8, as amended herein, is allowable over the Bettinger Patent in view of the Greenblatt Patent and the Penczak et al. Patent.

It is respectfully submitted that the Bettinger Patent, the Greenblatt Patent, and the Penczak et al. Patent, taken alone or in any proper combination, fail to teach and/or suggest claim 8. Claim 8, presently recites an article support apparatus for use with a

raised floor system including, *inter alia*, an article support member *suspendable* from at least one stringer element, the article support member being configured and dimensioned to support articles thereon; and at least one suspension assembly *connectable* with the article support member to at least one stringer element of the raised floor system such that the article support member is suspended from the at least one stringer element.

For the reasons presented above regarding the patentability of claim 1 over the Bettinger Patent, the Greenblatt Patent, and the Penczak et al. Patent, claim 8, as amended herein, is also allowable over the Bettinger Patent, the Greenblatt Patent, and the Penczak et al. Patent.

Claims 11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Bettinger Patent in view of the Greenblatt Patent and the Penczak et al. Patent as applied to claim 8 above and further in view of the Trautmann Patent and Kindorf (U.S. Patent 2,784,812).

It is respectfully submitted that the Kindorf Patent fails to remedy the deficiencies of the Bettinger Patent, the Greenblatt Patent, the Penczak et al Patent, and the Trautmann Patent. The Kindorf Patent is directed to structural beams and various connecting means. It is respectfully submitted that the Kindorf Patent fails to remedy the deficiencies of the Bettinger Patent, the Greenblatt Patent, the Penczak et al Patent, and the Trautmann Patent.

Since claims 11 and 13 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 8 and contain all of the features of claim 8, and since the Kindorf Patent fails to remedy the deficiencies of the Bettinger Patent, the Greenblatt Patent, the Penczak et al Patent, and the Trautmann

Patent, for the reasons presented above for the patentability of claim 8, it is respectfully submitted that claims 11 and 13 are also patentable over the Bettinger Patent, the Greenblatt Patent, the Penczak et al. Patent, the Trautmann Patent, and the Kindorf Patent.

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Bettinger Patent in view of the Greenblatt Patent, the Penczak et al. Patent, the Trautmann Patent, and the Kindorf Patent as applied to claim 13 above and further in view of Olson (U.S. Patent 5,938,367).

The Olson Patent is relied upon for the disclosure of a fastener including a spring disposed between a bolt head and the movable latch which biases the latch away from the bolt head. It is respectfully submitted that the Olson Patent fails to remedy the deficiencies of the Bettinger Patent, the Greenblatt Patent, the Penczak et al Patent, the Trautmann Patent, the Kindorf Patent, and the Olson Patent.

Since claim 14 depends, directly or indirectly, from claim 8 and contains all of the features of claim 8, and since the Olson Patent fails to remedy the deficiencies of the Bettinger Patent, the Greenblatt Patent, the Penczak et al Patent, the Trautmann Patent, and the Kinder Patent, for the reasons presented above for the patentability of claim 8, it is respectfully submitted that claim 14 is also patentable over the Bettinger Patent, the Greenblatt Patent, the Penczak et al Patent, the Trautmann Patent, and the Kinder Patent.

Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Bettinger Patent in view of the Greenblatt Patent and the Penczak et al. Patent as applied to claim 8 above and further in view of the Trautmann Patent and the Kindorf Patent. It

is respectfully submitted that claim 15, as amended herein, is allowable over the Bettinger Patent, the Greenblatt Patent, the Penczak et al. Patent, the Trautmann Patent, and the Kindorf Patent, taken alone or in any proper combination.

Claim 15, presently recites a method of installing an article support apparatus in a raised floor system including, *inter alia*, the steps of providing an article support apparatus including an article support member configured and adapted for *suspension* from adjacent stringer elements which are supported by support pedestals of the raised floor system, the article support member being configured and dimensioned to support articles thereon, and at least one mounting mechanism *connectable* with the article support member and adapted to mount the article support member to at least one stringer element of a raised floor system such that the article support apparatus *depends* from at least one stringer element; inserting mounting mechanism into a channel portion defined in a stringer of the raised floor system; and adjusting the mounting mechanism to thereby mount the article support member to the stringer of the raised floor system.

For the reasons presented above regarding the patentability of claims 1-4, 8, 11, 13 and 14 over the references of record, claim 8, as amended herein, is also allowable over the references of record.

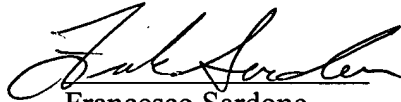
In view of the amendments made to the claims, and in view of the remarks presented above, it is respectfully submitted that each of the rejections of the claims in the present Office Action has been overcome.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the references of record, considered individually or in any proper combination, disclose or suggest the present invention as claimed.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview may facilitate prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative at the number indicated below.

An early and favorable response is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Francesco Sardone', written over a horizontal line.

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